Completion of Maharashtra Irrigation Projects

*390. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major and medium irrigation proejets in Maharashtra which have so far been completed alongwith those which still remain incomplete, as on 30th September, 1995;

(b) the reasons for some of the projects in the State remaining incomplete; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure the timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) As on 30th Sept., 1995, 19 Major and 155 Medium Irrigation Projects have been completed in Maharashtra since the start of the Plan period, 33 Major and 45 Medium Irrigation Projects remain to be completed.

(b) The main reason for delay in completion of projects, in addition to technical factors and difficulties in acquisition of land, is inadequate provision of funds.

(c) Steps taken by the Union Government for expeditious completion of the projects so as to derive early benefits are to persuade the States to give priority to those projects which have made substantial progress, earmarking of outlays by the Planning Commission for important projects intensive monitoring of important projects by Central Water Commission and the States, setting up of cost control cells in the States, etc.

Use of High Yielding Varieties of Seeds and Chemical Fertilizers

*391. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use-of high yielding varieties of seeds and chemical fertilisers has resulted in increase in agricultural production of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the increase in the population of the country at the rate of 2% has upset all the increase in production; and

(c) if so, the steps under consideration of Government to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Despite increase in population by about 2.1% per annum, the increased production of foodgrains over the years has resulted in increase in per capita availability/consumption of foodgrains.

(c) It has been the endeavour of -the Government to increase the foodgrain production at a rate higher than the rate of increase in population to meet the increasing demand due to increase in population and per capita income. The Government is implementing various foodgrain production oriented programmes to raise and sustain the growth of foodgrains production in the country and to improve its overall per capita availability.

कृषि उपज के अस्थिर मूल्य

*392. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :** क्या **कृषि** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि **:**

(क) सरकार कृषि उपज के अस्थिर मूल्यों से किसानों का संरक्षण करने हेतु क्या उपाय कर रही है;

(ख) क्या किसानों को इन उपायों से पूर्ण संरक्षण प्राप्त हो रहा है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और क्या

सरकार का विचार इस संबंध में कोई ठोस उपाय करने का है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री बलराम जाखड़) : (क) किसानों को उनके उत्पाद के लिए लाभकारी मूल्य सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार प्रत्येक मौसम में प्रमुख कृषि जिन्सों के न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य घोषित करती है और सार्वजनिक तथा सहकारी एजेन्सियों के माध्यम से खरीद कार्य करती है।

(ख) सरकार यह सुनिश्चित करने का प्रयत्न करती है कि उसके द्वारा घोषित किए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य किसानों को प्राप्त हो रहे है। इस प्रकार सरकार उन्हें मूल्यों में आने वाली गिरावट से सुरक्षा देती है

(ग) से (ङ) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

Cost of anti-cancer drugs

*393. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that anti-cancer drugs are exorbitantly costly;

(b) if so, the reasons for not covering these drugs under the Drugs Price Control Order; and

(c) the life saving anti-cancer drugs that have been brought under the Drug Price Control Order?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) The anti-cancer medicines are costly.

(b) and (c) The identification of drugs for price control has been done in accordance with the Criteria laid down in the "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986", across the board, without any distinction on the basis of therapeutic applications of drugs. On this basis, anti-cancer drugs fall outside price control under the DPCO, 1995.

OBC Quota to Children of IAS and IPS Officers

*394. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'IAS and IPS children cannot get OBC quota jobs' which appeared in Hindustan Times dated the 6th September, 1995; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir, The news items refers to the criteria laid down by the State Governments of Bihar and U.P. in respect of identification of "Creamy Layer" which has been struck down by the Supreme Court in. its judgement delivered on September 4, 1995 in the case of Ashoka Kumar Thakur Vs. State of Bihar and Others in WP(C) No. 631 of 1994 (with WP(C) 13S/95, 771/94 and 65/95). The Supreme Court has also directed that for the academic year 1995-96, the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar shall follow the criteria laid down by Government of India. It will be open to the two States to lay down fresh criteria for the subsequent years in accordance with" law.

(b) The Supreme Court judgement in the case of Indira Sawhney and Ors. Vs. Union of Indian and Ors. (Mandal Case) delivered on 17th November, 1992 directed the Government of India, each of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to specify the criteria for excluding the "Creamy Layer" from OBCs. Therefore, it is for each State Governments and U.T. Administrations to evolve their own criteria. The Central Government have no role in this matter.

The Central Government had already issued instructions on 8th September, 1993 specifiying the categories of persons belonging to OBC to whom the rule of